promised unfulfilled. Like politicians' promises of peace, was theirs of destruction. Those who had scattered to dug-outs and hiding-places, left them; like gas-masks "were taken off to disclose unlike features. Again, yet again, all was as it had been before. War, it seemed, could not come to pass any more than it could be prevented—contraceptive or strip-tease war, *Menschen In Uniform]* rattle its bones over the stones, old war's funeral and new war's birth.

'Perhaps the most fateful moment in our history,' the Bang said, broadcasting on the afternoon of that same September Sunday. Doubtless the moment was fateful, yet its fatefulness was as elusive as previous moments' unfatefulness had been. Its fatefulness could not be comprehended. 'Freedom is in Peril, Defend it with all your Might', posters announced and eyes listlessly read; another advertising campaign—'Eat More Bread', 'Breathe More Air', 'Defend More Freedom'. Buildings sprouted sand-bags, some piled high and some with little heaps at their lower extremities; banks and offices were transferred to rural scenes, Cheapside built in England's green and pleasant land, typewriters sounding and money counted in former ancestral mansions, gilded ceilings and portraits staring down at an unfamiliar scene; children were evacuated, cinemas closed, lights put out. London left dark, childless, cinemaless, at night scarcely existing at all, obliterated.

What had seemed so solid, melted; rows of large houses in Kensington stood silent and deserted, bells when rung echoing through their emptiness, no door opened to reveal lighted

opulence within, no respectful domestic advancing to relieve visitors of overcoat and hat; occasional householders who remained, boarded up at night, skeleton garrison left behind when the main army had been withdrawn. Shop-windows were plastered over with strips of paper, even small establishments displaying contraceptive appliances and opened books on nudism and other hygieno-sexual subjects, taking this precaution. Gas-masks were carried, sometimes in ornamental cases which also contained make-up apparatus; air wardens and sub-wardens